PATENT

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Notice of Allowance Dated: October 3, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 24-31 of the present application with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The operation of the classification chain is broken down into two phases: classification and operation. Human experts undertake the classification phase. Commonly assigned U.S. Patent Appln. No. [Attorney Docket No. MSFT-0581] 09/934,774, filed August 21, 2001, describes a system and method for training and certifying trainees to be groovers, or experts qualified to classify data. These experts, who may be first-rate music classification experts for maximum consistency, or groovers who have been trained by those experts, assign each media entity in the data set to one or more classes. Each class corresponds to a given subset of perceptual properties of the data. The classified data is then used to construct an initial classification chain.--